

Jewish Community of Amherst

קהילה היהודית של אמרסט



Jewish Reconstructionist
Federation 

June/July 2008

Iyar/Sivan/Tammuz 5768

Vol. 7, Issue No. 6

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

June 6 ~ 8:06 pm

June 13 ~ 8:10 pm

June 20 ~ 8:12 pm

June 27 ~ 8:13 pm

July 4 ~ 8:12 pm

July 11 ~ 8:09 pm

July 18 ~ 8:05 pm

July 25 ~ 7:59 pm

*Times shown are
18 minutes before sunset
for Amherst, MA*

Special Events

June 1

Semi-Annual Meeting
Kosher Q

June 8

Confirmation Class
Presentations and
Tikkun Leyl Shavuot

Meetings

June 2

Chesed Committee

June 5

Board Meeting

June 11

Religion Committee

June 24

Social Committee

June 25

Fundraising Committee

July 2

Religion Committee

July 23

Fundraising Committee

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

John Loeb, 253-0336, JolBioSol@aol.com

The joy of our Passover celebrations quickly gives way to the somber commemoration with the rest of world Jewry of Yom Hashoa, Holocaust Day, which perpetuates the memory of the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis during the Second World War, followed by Yom Hazikaron, Remembrance Day, which commemorates all those fallen in Israel's conflicts. It is as though only after the painful catharsis of these two scarring events that Israel and we Jews can permit ourselves the joy of Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel Independence Day, the day the Jews of Israel proclaimed their independence for themselves and for the Jews of the world.

This year, under the auspices of our World Jewish Concerns and Action Committee, we had a particularly rich and moving commemoration of Yom Hashoah. Anita Schorr, a survivor of Terezin, Bergen Belsen, Auschwitz, and Hamburg slave labor, recounted the horrors of her experiences, punctuated with the wrenching drumbeat of poetry illuminating her survival written and read by Stephn Herz and the singing of Mak'hela. Her vitality and unquenchable optimism

were remarkable testaments to the capacity of the human spirit not only to endure but to sustain a creative center. The JCA felt enlarged and moved by its own participation in this commemorative hour.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut, this year shared by the WJCA Committee and our local Hadasah, was an affair of joy and celebration. Politics were put aside from the event and sixty years of extraordinary achievements were the core of the evening. A potluck dinner was followed by a review that could only touch on a fraction of Israeli achievements in agriculture, medicine, computer science, solar energy, desalination and on and on. Sarina Ergas who just returned from a sabbatical at the Technion, spoke of Israel's exceptional achievements in water technology, Micha Peleg described the advances achieved in Israel's food industry and Janet Winston described the far reaching advances in Israeli medicine. There was a wonderful sense of sharing in the profound best that Israel offers not only to her citizens but to the rest of the world, as the toast offered to mark Israel's 60th indeed declared.

continued on page 12

**The JCA
Commemorates
and Celebrates.**

B'nai Mitzvah

June 7 - 10:00 AM, Addison Rose Gamliel

June 14 - 10:00 AM, Leah Alper

June 28 - 10:00 AM, Jacob Black

July 5 - 10:00 AM, Rachel Madowitz

July 12 - 10:00 AM, Aidan Bohan

JCA Semi-Annual Meeting

June 1st at 3pm

Recommendations from the Educational Task Force along with other business will be discussed.

The meeting will be followed by our 2nd annual Kosher-Q. (see page 11)

CHESED COMMITTEE

The Chesed Committee assists JCA community members in times of joy, sorrow and need. We coordinate volunteers who provide the following services to the community: welcoming new babies with a menorah; providing meals, rides to appointments, errands, and visits for those who are ill or in need. In addition, when there has been a death, we transport prayer books for Shiva minyans and provide a fruit platter or bagels and cream cheese. If you have a need, know of someone in need, would like to join our Committee or be added to our list of volunteers, please contact the JCA office at 256-0160 and a Chesed Committee member will be in touch with you.

Jewish Community of Amherst, Inc.

742 Main Street, Amherst, MA 01002
 (413) 256-0160, fax (413) 256-1588
 Religious School (413) 256-0160 ext. 203
 email: info@j-c-a.org; On line at: www.j-c-a.org

Rabbi David Dunn Bauer

Rabbi Emerita Sheila Weinberg

Rabbi Emeritus Yechiael Lander (586-1137)

Education Director: Jody Rosenbloom (256-0160 ext. 203)

President: John Loeb (253-0336)

First Vice President: Lisa Perl binder (230-3055)

Second Vice President: Ted Trobaugh (549-5468)

Third Vice President: Eli Kwartler (253-2929)

Treasurer: Alan Peterfreund (253-5485)

Membership: Robyn Miller (549-4060), **Oran Kaufman** (548-8139)

Chesed Committee: Please call the office (256-0160)

Office Administrator: Marcia Howard (256-0160)

Administrative Assistants: Bonnie Webster, Pam Cummings (256-0160)

Events Co-ordinator: Linda Cooper (256-0160 ext. 207)

A complete listing of committees and chairs can be found on the JCA website at:
<http://www.j-c-a.org/committees.html>

NEWSLETTER

Editor/Graphic Designer: Aaron Bousel

(Voice: 253-3544, Voice & Fax: 253-3846; news@j-c-a.org)

Proofreader: Sarah Thomson

Deadline for the August issue is July 13th

June/July 2008, Vol. 7, Issue No. 6

Newsletter is published 11 times per year.

Subscription price is included in JCA membership.

BEIT SHALOM COMMITTEE

The Beit Shalom Committee is available to members of the JCA congregation wishing assistance in addressing personal differences that have arisen between individuals, among committees, or with those in leadership positions within the JCA. Accordingly, if you have concerns or disagreements, or feel a desire to enhance communication with another member, a committee, or leader, please contact a Beit Shalom Committee member to facilitate this process. All such communications will be kept strictly confidential unless agreed upon differently by the participants.

Eva Metzger Brown: 256-8066
embrown13@comcast.net

Josette Henschel: 213-0186
josette.henschel@aic.edu

Rob Okun: 253-9372
raokun@verizon.net

Kitty Talan: 253-2248
kittytalan@comcast.net

Haim Gunner:
haim_gunner@yahoo.com

RABBI LIAISON COMMITTEE

The charge of the Rabbi Liaison Committee is:

“To provide an effective process that will expand and enhance both the functional and personal relationship between the Rabbi and the JCA community”

We encourage you to contact any member of the committee whenever you feel there is an issue that you would like them to consider with Rabbi Bauer.

Aaron Bousel 253-3544

Judy Glaser 253-9607

Haim Gunner 549-0447

Ruth Kane-Levit 548-1083

Eli Kwartler 253-2929

**DEVARIM:
WORDS FROM RABBI DAVID DUNN BAUER**



Franz Rosenzweig (z"l), a 20th-century German Jewish philosopher and theologian, wrote



A new learning is about to be born -- rather, it has been born. It is a learning in reverse order. A learning that no longer starts from the Torah and leads into life, but the other way round: from life, from a world that knows nothing of the Law, or pretends to know nothing, back to the Torah. That is the sign of the time.



Rosenzweig hints at something in those words "or pretends to know nothing."



There is a validity to learning from life to Torah, but learning from Torah to life remains powerful and present.



Our community travels both directions on this road of learning. We take wisdom from Torah and apply it to life; what we learn from our own lives molds the lens through which we read and interpret Torah. Perhaps there are some who would deplore this bi-directionality, but I would never want to be part of a Jewish community that didn't learn this way. Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan (z"l) , founder



We take wisdom from Torah and apply it to life; what we learn from our own lives molds the lens through which we read and interpret Torah.

of Reconstructionism, seconded Rosenzweig with his famous statement "The past gets a vote, not a veto." We sometimes begin our journey of learning with what was written three thousand years ago, sometimes with what we felt in our hearts or bodies this morning.

On Shavuot, we will study the idea and practice of prayer, drawing on knowledge from the earliest texts of our tradition and on the most recent thoughts and inspirations of our own lives. The service that night will be led by our Confirmation Class, teenagers who have demonstrated a respect for the wisdom of Jewish history

and for the voices of conscience and inspiration that emerge in conversation with their teachers and each other. This night will be about the excitement of being who we are, heirs and authors of a sacred tradition -- a two-way bridge connecting all the generations of our people.

*B'virkat shalom - with a blessing of peace,
Rabbi Bauer*



You are needed!

Every Tuesday morning several people meet in the small sanctuary for a morning service. Often, we are not able to make a minyan and what's frustrating is that more often than not we are eight or nine people. This is a wonderful way to begin your day. The service begins at 7:30 and is over by 8:30. Latecomers are always welcome. Your attendance could make the difference between someone being able to say Kaddish for a loved one or not. Please consider coming when you can.



RELIGION COMMITTEE

Paul Charette, Co-chair, 860-559-4926, Cyclone411@charter.net

Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser, Co-chair 413-774-5796, shapiro-rieser@comcast.net

RELIGION CALENDAR

June 2, Monday- Yom Yerushalayim



June 4, Wednesday- Rosh Chodesh Sivan



Shabbat Naso, Numbers 4:21-7:89

June 6, Friday

5:30 PM

Intergenerational Family Service followed by potluck supper, held at Groff Park (weather permitting)

June 7, Saturday

10:00 AM

Reconstructionist Service (main sanctuary)

Bat Mitzvah: Addison Rose Gamliel

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Divrei Torah: Addison Rose Gamliel and Rabbi Bauer

Masorti Service (small sanctuary)

Service will be led by community members

D'var Torah: To be announced



June 8, Sunday- Erev Shavuot

6:00 PM - 11:30 PM

Confirmation Class Presentations and

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot (see page 7 for details)



June 9, Monday- Shavuot

10:00 AM- Service with Yiskor

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer



Shabbat Beha'alotecha, Numbers 8:1-12:16

June 13, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

June 14, Saturday

10:00 AM

Bat Mitzvah: Leah Alper

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Divrei Torah: Leah Alper and Rabbi Bauer



Shabbat Shelah, Numbers 13:1-15:41

June 20, Friday

6:15 PM

Carlebach Style Service

Service Leaders: Larry and Deb Fine

Potluck supper following the service

June 21, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser

There will be Torah study led by Devorah Jacobson following kiddush.



Shabbat Korach, Numbers 16:1-18:32

June 27, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

June 28, Saturday

10:00 AM

Bar mitzvah: Jacob Black

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Divrei Torah: Jacob Black and Rabbi Bauer



July 3, Thursday- Rosh Chodesh Tammuz



Shabbat Hukat, Numbers 28:1-15

July 4, Friday

5:30 PM

Intergenerational Family Service followed by potluck supper, held at Groff Park (weather permitting)

July 5, Saturday

10:00 AM

Reconstructionist Service (main sanctuary)

Bat Mitzvah: Rachel Madowitz

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Divrei Torah: Rachel Madowitz and Rabbi Bauer

Masorti Service (small sanctuary)

Service will be led by community members

D'var Torah: To be announced



continued on next page

KIDDUSH SPONSORS

May 3 (Mincha)-

Diane Berg and Richard Schrader in honor of their son Jacob becoming Bar Mitzvah

May 10-

Hollie Kalkstein and Robert Weitzman in honor of their son Isaac becoming Bar Mitzvah

May 17-

Eva Rosenn in honor of her son Ian becoming Bar Mitzvah

May 31-

Jennifer Holme and Robyn Miller in honor of their daughter Gabrielle becoming Bat Mitzvah

June 7-

Tom Porter and Lisa Perl binder in honor of their daughter Addison Rose Gamliel becoming Bat Mitzvah

June 14-

Arnie and Reed Alper in honor of their daughter Leah becoming Bat Mitzvah

June 28-

Alan and Gail Black in honor of their son Jacob becoming Bar Mitzvah

July 12-

Joseph and Maury Bohan in honor of their son Aidan becoming Bar Mitzvah

Please make sure you speak to Linda Cooper and fill out a Kiddush/Oneg sponsor form to assure that the date you want will be reserved.

Meditation Minyan

The weekday meditation minyan continues to meet every Wednesday at 7:30 am in the small sanctuary

continued from previous page

Shabbat Balak, Numbers 22:2-25:9

July 11, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

July 12, Saturday

10:00 AM

Bar Mitzvah: Aidan Bohan

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Divrei Torah: Aidan Bohan and Rabbi Bauer



Shabbat Pinchas

Numbers 25:10-30:1

July 18, Friday

6:15 PM

Carlebach Style Service

Service Leaders: To be announced

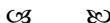
Potluck supper following the service

July 19, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Gordon Freed

D'var Torah: To be announced



July 20, Sunday-

Shive'ah Asar B'Tammuz

Shive'ah Asar B'Tammuz (the 17th day of Tammuz) is a minor fast day which commemorates the day when the Babylonian army made the first breach in the wall of Jerusalem during the siege in 586 B.C.E. Since the 17th falls on Shabbat, it is observed on Sunday.



Shabbat Mattot

Numbers 30:2-31:54

Friday, July 25

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

July 26, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Paul Charette

There will be Torah study led by Merle Feld following kiddush.



FIRST FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE AND POTLUCK SUPPER

Please join us on the first Friday of each month at 5:30 pm for a brief child oriented service followed by a potluck supper. Although the service is geared towards young children, it contains all the elements of a regular Friday evening service, including mourner's kaddish. People of all ages are encouraged to attend. It's a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

MASORTI LAY-LED SHABBAT MINYAN

The Masorti Minyan continues to meet on the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 am.

All, including families with children, are welcome to attend and to take a leadership role.

For details contact: Catherine Madsen, 253-2930

FOOT STOMPING MELODIES FOR WELCOMING SHABBAT

The next two Carlebach-style services will be on June 20th & July 18th

The melodies are beautiful, the spirit/ruach is incredible.

There will be a potluck supper following the service.

EDUCATION NEWS

Jody Rosenbloom, Director of Education, 256-0160, ext. 203

**Education Moving Forward****A Presentation at the Semi-Annual Meeting****Join Us on Sunday, June 1, 2008**

After a presentation at the May Board meeting, members of the Education Task Force will be at the Semi-Annual Meeting to share the proposed five year plan and actual progress over the last year. A survey was sent out on-line to families with children in JCA School to help determine parameters of changes for the upcoming year. Results are being compiled. Meetings were held the final week of school to gather additional information.

Thank You To

* The "Picture in Israel" Donors:

Ruth Love Barer, Rabbi Bauer, Kitty Axelson Berry, Macy Bryer Charette, Paul Bryer-Charette, Cheryl & Chuck Edgerly, David Gamliel, Addie Gamliel, Haim & Yaffa Gunner, Av Harris, the Kannel family, Jackie Katz, Elinor Levine, Karen Loeb, Felicia Mednick, Scott Nielsen, Emily Porter, Jody Rosenbloom, Sara Schley, Carol-Ann Smalley, Randi Stein, Felice Yeskel, & Melissa Zeitz

* The Severin Family for the donation of the Holiday Bingo Game

* **Ken Bernstein** for organizing "The Life & Times of Hank Greenberg" movie & pizza afternoon.

* Everyone who brought in "Box Tops for Education." We earned \$101.50.

Presenting "Jewish Teens in the World/Teens in the Jewish World": Continuing Community Reflections in Our JCA Hallway Gallery

In an effort to document the lives of JCA members in the many facets of their Jewish journeys, students in the Confirmation class are featured in this exhibit. Panels include both a picture of a teen and their response to questions about their post-bar/bat mitzvah Jewish choices. Take a moment to read their contributions as well as look at the panels from "Members in Israel." Exhibits will be up through June.

"Jewish Congregational Education: Evolution & Revolution"

Is the title and focus for the Conference on Alternatives in Jewish Education (CAJE) in Burlington, VT from August 10-14. Education Director, **Jody Rosenbloom*** will be part of a team from the JCA gathering resources in keeping with the efforts of the Education Task Force. Also attending the conference are staff members, **Rabbi Bauer & Rachael Goren***; teachers **Andrea Olkin* & Melissa Zeitz***; and community education leaders **Andra Rose & Felicia Mednick**. Among the many presenters and proposed courses, Jody Rosenbloom was chosen to facilitate two workshops: 1) "Voices From the Field: Conversations Among Peers - Potential and Realities in Mid-Size Congregational Learning", and 2) "Voices From the Field: Conversations Among Peers - Beyond Our Walls: Congregational Schools in Transition."

*To underwrite the cost of attending, Jody, Rachael, Andrea and Melissa each received a generous \$600 professional development grant through the **Resource Center for Jewish Education and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation**.

Dinner Honors 10 Years of B'nai Tzedek Philanthropy

On Tuesday, May 20, teens who have started a B'nai Tzedek fund were invited to an evening which included a Tzedakah Fair, award presentations, dinner and entertainment. 54 JCA teens have each begun a fund since the B'nai Tzedek program began, 20 of whom are currently active in our teen program. The Fair gave these young philanthropists a chance to learn about organizations that have received their donations in past years and the awards honored teen leaders in 2008 for their efforts in both tikkun olam and tzedakah (see the teen page). The gathering ended with comedian, Joel Chasenoff, and his unique blend of humor anchored in a Jewish context – he is a favorite on the Jewish camp, college campus and youth group circuits.



WHAT IS SHAVUOT?

We will be celebrating the holiday of Shavuot in June. Shavuot is a Hebrew word meaning “weeks” and refers to the Jewish festival marking the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. Shavuot, like so many other Jewish holidays began as an ancient agricultural festival, marking the end of the spring barley harvest and the beginning of the summer wheat harvest. Shavuot was distinguished in ancient times by bringing crop offerings to the Temple in Jerusalem.

Shavuot, also known as the Festival of the Giving of the Torah, dates from biblical times, and helps to explain the holiday’s name, “Weeks.” The Torah tells us it took precisely forty-nine days for our ancestors to travel from Egypt to the foot of Mount Sinai (the same number of days as the Counting of the Omer) where they were to receive the Torah. Thus, Leviticus 23:21 commands: “And you shall proclaim that day (the fiftieth day) to be a holy convocation.” The name Shavuot, “Weeks,” then symbolizes the completion of a seven-week journey.

Special customs on Shavuot are the reading of the Book of Ruth, which reminds us that we too can find a continual source of blessing in our tradition. Another tradition includes staying up all night to study Torah and Mishnah, a custom called Tikkun Leyl Shavuot, which symbolizes our commitment to the Torah, and that we are always ready and awake to receive the Torah. Traditionally, dairy dishes are served on this holiday to symbolize the sweetness of the Torah, as well as the “land of milk and honey”.

DEAN’S BEANS SEASON EXTENDED INTO JULY!!

Due to popular demand, the Dean’s Beans Organic Coffee fundraiser will run through July this season. The order due dates and pick-ups are as follows:

June 1; pick up on or after June 6

July 6 : Pick up on or after July 11

So, enjoy the summer with some iced coffee and a few Java Drops (dark chocolate covered coffee beans) for a real treat! Dean’s Beans Organic Coffee-- it’s fair trade, locally owned, and all profits supplement the cost of running the JCA School.



To get on the email reminder list or for more information, contact Sue Weinstein: susanweinstein1@yahoo.com, 413/548-9552.

*Dean’s Beans Organic Coffee--
it’s free trade, kosher, and supports our JCA School.*

SHAVUOT AT THE JCA

On Sunday June 8th we will be observing Tikkun Leyl Shavuot our late night study session that kicks off the holiday of Shavuot. We honor the holiday by studying with great teachers and eating copious amounts of ice cream and blintzes. Our theme for this year is Prayer. The program is also quite special this year because of our teachers. The Tikkun Leyl Shavuot will be on Sunday June 8th and will be combined with presentations of our quite awesome Confirmation Class. The schedule for the evening will be:

6:00 pm:

Ma’ariv and teaching from the Confirmation Class

7:30 pm: Food

Evening teachings on Prayer:

8:30: Rabbi Eddie Feld

9:15: More food

9:30: Catherine Madsen

10:15: More food

10:30: Rabbi Bauer

11:15 Last call for ice cream

Yes, you will be a little bleary eyed for work the next day. But there is a tradition that the heavens open at 12:00 midnight on Leyl Shavuot and you can ask for anything that your heart desires. That ought to keep you awake on the ride home!

On Monday June 9th at 10:00 am there will be Shavuot services which will include Yiskor.

JCA OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Friday 10:30 - 4:00

Wednesday 4:00 - 6:00 pm &

Sunday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

for Religious School support.

TEEN PROGRAMMING June 2008

JCAT Programming for 6, 7, and 8th graders

Sunday, June 8th: 12-3pm

MINI-GOLF & Picnic Lunch

Come mini-golf with your friends at the Family Golf Center on Rt. 9 in Hadley



& join us for a picnic lunch. Food, fees, and golf club rentals provided. RAIN LOCATION- JCA for games and indoor fun.

RSVP by 6/4. Free to Chai members; \$8 for Alef and 6th graders; \$12 for 7-8th non-members.

Thursday, June 19th: 12-3pm

End of the Year Celebration at Mill River Recreation Area

Come join us for some outdoor games, lunch, and fun! This is a bring-a-friend event-



so come and bring a friend- it is free to everyone! Rain location- JCA for indoor games.

SPARK!: Partnership for Service

Come volunteer with the elderly- we will be...

WHO: Open to any teen in 7th grade and up.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

DATE: June 22nd

TIME: 2-4:30pm

WHERE: Center for Extended Care, University Drive, Amherst.

Free to anyone interested.

Make a difference in someone's life- volunteer!

RSVP to Avital at avihistory@gmail.com.



BBYO Programming for 9-12th graders

SAVE THE DATE!!! BBYO Elections for next year's board will be **Friday, June 13th**.

Contact Jo at onetallplum@yahoo.com with any questions or for more information.



Confirmation Class JUNE Calendar

Wed. 6/4 6-8pm: Confirmation Class with Rabbi
Sun. 6/8 6pm: Erev Shavuot Confirmation Service

Want more info? Contact the teen adviser Rachael at jcateens@gmail.com or 256-0160 x208. These programs are partially funded by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation Teen Initiative.

TEEN PROGRAMMING: END OF THE YEAR**By: Rachael Goren, Director of Teen Programming**

As we move into June, teen programming begins to wrap up for the summer so that we can prepare for next fall. This has been an exciting year for teen programming, since **we have had over 100 teens involved in teen programming since August**. I hope that in June we have even more teen involvement with our upcoming events: Mini-golfing & Mill River End of the Year Celebration.

Spark

Avital and I want to thank the following teens who have volunteered at the Center for Extended Care with the residents there through the spark! Program: **Annie Vernick, Kaia Zimmerman, Sarah Alper, Zak Tobin, Lena Amick, Rachel Madowitz, Juliana Gensheimer, Gabrielle Holme-Miller, and Zoe Weizenbaum**. If you are interested in attending the June session or learning more about the spark program for next year, contact Avital at avihistory@gmail.com.

JCAT

The Jewish Community of Amherst Teen Group has had quite a successful year. We have completed a number of community service programs and have gotten a lot of teens involved in programming. **Thanks to Rachel Smith and Rachel Gross** for their persistence and dedication to the program.

Confirmation Class

On Sunday, June 8th at 6pm, I invite the congregation, family, and friends, to join Rabbi Bauer and me to honor our confirmation class. The following students participated in the confirmation class program and will be honored at this service: **Spencer Diamond, Jeremy Leiser-Mitchell, and Aaron Clayton-Dunn**. The following students will be confirmed at this service: **Mike Friedman, Max Faytell, Sasha Lansky, Jamie Sharken, Zoe Weizenbaum, Benny Docter, Jonathan Harris-Eisen, Charlie Kannel, David Gamliel, Zac Oppenheimer, Marianne**

Wald, Sarah Alper, Hendrix Berry, Tani Goderez, & Kaia Zimmerman. Yasher Koach to these teens for their dedication to continuing their Jewish education.

BBYO

BBYO has done a great job this year with programming—the board organized some great events and got a lot of new teens involved in Jewish teen programming. Jo and I want to thank the BBYO Board for all their hard work and dedication: **Simone Palladino, Mike Friedman, Nikki Kaufman, Josh Stavchansky, Sarah Horowitz, Ilana Kasal, and Jonathan Harris-Eisen**. I also want to extend my **thanks to Jo Katz Kent** for all her help and dedication to BBYO for the past two years.

Survey Winners

Mazel Tov to **Simone Palladino, Gabe Kaufman, and Henry Abramowitz** for winning Best Buy Gift certificates for completing their surveys for Teen Programming!

Leadership Award Winner

Yasher Koach to **Sasha Lansky** for winning the B'nai Tzedek leadership award at the B'nai Tzedek Banquet on May 20th hosted by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Sasha has been involved in a number of programs this year, including: confirmation class, Panim el Panim, STAND!, UMASS Ride to Provide, B'nai Tzedek, and Hazon, just to name a few. We are very proud to honor Sasha and glad that her hard work is being honored with this award.



Hope you have a great summer & that I see you all at the annual white water rafting trip in August! I am also beginning to plan for next year's teen programming and am looking for any interested 6,7, or 8th graders who want to be on the JCAT Teen Board and help decide upcoming events. If you have any questions about teen programming or are interested in leadership, please contact me at teendir@j-c-a.org.

*Bee Shally (B'shalom)
Rachael*

GET IT ON LINE!

You can read the JCA Newsletter on line at:

www.j-c-a.org/news/current.pdf

Many of our members have elected not to receive a printed copy of the Newsletter and read it on line instead (or print their own copy from the on line edition).

This helps reduce the cost of producing the Newsletter each month.

Please contact the office if you no longer need to have the Newsletter mailed to you.

CAMP SHEMESH UPDATE

**Session One is completely full for this summer.
Only a few spots remain in Sessions 2 and 3 for
Camp Shemesh— Don't be left out!!!!
Sorry, there are no spots left for CITs.**

Remember to mail in final payments and medical forms by June 1st.



Registration forms can be found at www.j-c-a.org or email shemesh@j-c-a.org for more information.

HURRY! Before it is too late!

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The Jewish Community of Amherst's Second Annual

KOSHER Q



SUNDAY

JUNE 1st

5—7 PM JCA COURTYARD
742 Main Street, Amherst

MENU WILL INCLUDE:

- Barbecued Chicken
 - Hotdogs
 - Cole slaw
 - Chips
 - Potato salad
 - Veggie Burgers
- Homemade strawberry shortcake

*Make Reservations by: **May 20th**

For more information

Call or email:

Karen Loeb 253-0336 (kloeb@comcast.net) or

Amy Mittelman 256-0883 (amittelman@hampshire.edu)

Please enclose this form with a check made out to JCA, and send it to
Jewish Community of Amherst, 742 Main Street, Amherst, Massachusetts 01002

_____ Adults @\$12 each, JCA Members

_____ Adults @ \$15 each, Non-JCA Members

_____ Children (7-12) @ \$6 each, JCA Members

_____ Children (7-12) @ \$8 each, Non-JCA Members

***LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR**

President's Column, continued from page 1

On June 1st, at 3 PM we will have our Semi-Annual meeting (see your special mailing for details) followed by the JCA's Second Annual Kosher Que in the courtyard of our building. Aaron Bousel and Lise Brown will delight us with their music while we enjoy good food and company. Don't forget to make your reservations—details are in a flyer in this newsletter on page 11 and in the special mailing you received.

One more item I would like to share with the community. Many of you may be aware that on Friday, May 9, we moved our services to the social hall small sanctuary due to a concern regarding the floor in the sanctuary. Thank you to all the volunteers that came to assist with this last minute change.

Apparently one of the floor boards had shifted thus not making complete contact with the floor joist. This has been corrected with the help of JCA volunteers with expertise in buildings and construction. In addition, we will be calling in additional outside professionals for a further review. We do not anticipate any matters of concern but of course wish to assure everyone's well being and safety thus the extra step of caution.

b'shalom,
John Loeb

NEWS FROM THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The JCA's Second Annual Kosher Q will be held on June 1 from 5 to 7 p.m. *To put on such a great event we need help.*

- For setup 3:30 - 5 p.m.: 3 people;
- Kitchen help 3:30 - 5 p.m.: 2 people;
- Runners during the event 5- 7 p.m.: 2 people;
- Grill help 5 - 7 p.m.: 2 people; and
- Cleanup 7-8:30 p.m: 6 people.

If everyone pitches in and helps there will be less work for each person. If you think you can help please contact Amy Mittelman 256-0883 or Karen Loeb 253-0336.

The next Social Committee meeting will be June 24 at 6:30 p.m.at the JCA. Come and help plan exciting events such as Family Fun Day, a trip to the mikvah in Newton, and other fun filled times. All welcome.

JCA ADULT READING GROUP

The fourth meeting of the reading cycle for the JCA Adult Reading Group will take place on Wednesday, June 4, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room. The book for discussion is **Triangle** by Katharine Weber. It is available in paperback.

It is a novel about the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire in New York which killed 146 workers, most of them women, and galvanized efforts to reform working conditions in sweatshops. The novel "carefully, and wrenchingly, allows both the reader and Rebecca, the granddaughter of the oldest living survivor of the fire, Esther, to discover the secret truth about Esther and the Triangle without spelling it out; it is a truth that brings home the real sufferings of factory life as well as the human capacity to tell the stories we want to hear."(Publisher's Weekly Review).

This is the last meeting of the adult reading group for the year, which goes from September through June. New group members are always welcome.

If you have any questions, please call Ken Talan at 253-2248.



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MA NISHMAH
THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE JEWISH RECONSTRUCTIONIST FEDERATION



Make a Difference for Victims of the Myanmar Cyclone Disaster

JRF is an ongoing coalition member of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's (JDC) Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief (JCDR) during times of natural disaster and human suffering in the world.

AS UJC's overseas partner, the JDC has opened an emergency mailbox to raise relief funds for victims of Cyclone Nargis, which devastated portions of Myanmar (formerly Burma) on May 3.

Funds are being collected for non-sectarian aid for the estimated several hundred thousand cyclone victims left without shelter and safe drinking water. The efforts are part of JDC's International Development Program, which responds to natural and man-made disasters, providing immediate emergency relief and long-term assistance.

JDC website for donations:
http://www.jdc.org/jcdr_main.html

Donna Kirshbaum and Isaac Saposnik Among Forward's "Jewish World's Newest Rabbis"

Two future Reconstructionist rabbis have been profiled in the Forward among eleven up-and-coming Jewish leaders to watch. Both will graduate this June from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

Donna Kirshbaum felt she had a calling for the rabbinate since the age of 8. Since then, she has had a diverse and creative career — teaching ancient Greek and Latin, playing cello in a symphony orchestra in England, and co-owning a dairy farm in the Ozarks. Donna finally settled in Baltimore, where she helped to found the Bolton Street Synagogue and eventually served as principal of its religious school. She told the Forward that after all that, RRC "has been like a six-year-long Shabbat for me." Upon her ordination, Donna will serve as spiritual leader of String of Pearls Reconstructionist congregation in Princeton, NJ.

Isaac Saposnik, a native of Chicago, IL, has served for the past five summers as the assistant director of the Reconstructionist movement's summer camp, Camp JRF. This summer he assumes the role of Camp Director. He is also Director of No'ar Hadash, the Reconstructionist youth movement. Additionally, Isaac is coordinator of PEARL: Providing Education and Resources for Leadership, JRF's successful new distance-learning program for congregational leaders, which launched early this year.

Reconstructionist Rabbinical College on YouTube

Yes, the RRC has its own page on YouTube!

The address is: <http://youtube.com/profile?user=RRCedu>

Rabbi Brant Rosen Among Newsweek's Top Rabbis in America

Kol hakavod to **Rabbi Brant Rosen**, rabbi of the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation in Evanston, IL, for being recognized in Newsweek magazine as one of the Top Pulpit Rabbis in America.

With Rosen's leadership, JRC is gaining a reputation as "America's greenest shul" for meeting the highest standards in green building practices in its recent renovation.

Newsweek's criteria were rabbis' inspirational abilities; leadership within the congregation, denomination and the community; and skills in meeting the spiritual and personal needs of congregants.

Convention 2008

JRF's 42nd Convention will take place in Boston on November 13-16, 2008. The theme is:

Transformative Judaism for the 21st Century

What exciting innovations are on the horizon for Jewish life in the 21st century? What are the most pressing issues facing our Reconstructionist communities? In what areas are you seeking new ideas and solutions and have ideas to share?

FROM THE CHESED COMMITTEE:

Dear Community members,

As our population ages, we have seen an increase in the number and frequency of requests for help from the Chesed Committee. In response to these increasing needs our Committee has developed two strategies that we would like to share with you. First, we are actively recruiting new Chesed Committee members who will join the 10 of us who meet monthly and share the responsibility of “co-chairing” the Committee. If you feel that this is something you may be interested in, we invite you to attend our next meeting on Monday, June 2nd at 7:30 PM or to talk to any one of the Committee members. Please see below for contact information.

Secondly, we will soon be generating Community-wide Chesed emails asking for volunteers to help with specific situations as needs arise. We believe that this will not only make us more efficient by eliminating the often challenging task of phoning numerous potential volunteers but will also enable more members to participate in the joy of Chesed. Lastly, through increased communication we hope to raise awareness as to the kinds of help we offer.

When you receive an email titled “JCA Chesed Announcement” we ask that you take a minute to review the request and consider whether you are able to help. You will be instructed to whom to respond; in most cases it will be the monthly Chesed Co-chairs. PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO MARCIA OR THE JCA OFFICE. It is the responsibility of the Chesed Committee to both generate the requests and process the responses. We anticipate that many of you will eagerly respond, perhaps more than meeting the need. If this is the case we will let you know and will keep you in mind for similar situations in the future.

We’d like to assure you that *no confidential information will be conveyed via Community-wide email*. Requests will not include names or any identifying information. Some examples of likely requests are: “a member is hospitalized and is requesting visits at Cooley Dickinson,” or “a ride is needed for a member to get to a medical appointment on the following date” or possibly, “we are seeking meals for a family returning from an out of town shiva.” If you are able to help us meet the need, you let us know and we will contact you directly with more specific information just as we have done with volunteers in the past.

Performing Chesed, *acts of lovingkindness* is a win-win situation that brings out the best in people. It is never easy to ask for help, but all of us need it now and then, and a Community that is well-prepared to provide a prompt heart-felt response is one that forges deep, caring bonds amongst its members. This is the ideal that we strive for and know that we will find within our JCA Community.

B'Shalom,

Reed Alper (reedmangels@comcast.net), Eva Metzger Brown (embrown13@comcast.net),
Robin Diamond (gemmom3@aol.com), Cheryl Edgerly (cedgerly24@comcast.net),
Irene Eigner (irenenbill@hotmail.com), Jackie Katz (jkatz111@gmail.com), Amy Rothenberg (amy@nesh.com),
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COUNTING OMER TO SHAVUOT

by Rebecca Fisher

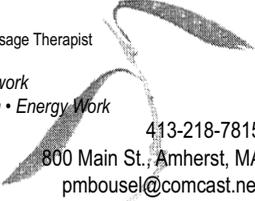
For seven weeks of seven days
 We're bid to keep the count
 So that we can remember
 Moses coming down the mount.
 Moses fasted while he did his work
 The people watched in awe
 the lightning flashing at the top
 while Yah proclaimed the law.

Although we had just left slavery
 we still didn't know what was going to be,
 and when we saw we were really free
 it was a time of great anxiety.
 The Israelites waited by Har Sinai
 For the holy word to come down from on high
 so for forty-nine days we partially mourn –
 Can't get married and can't be shorn,
 in trepidation waiting but
 On Lag B'omer you can get a haircut!

Shavuot marks the first fruits of the land
 And the day when in front of Sinai we stand
 In ancient times it was the harvest of wheat
 it's got some traditions that make it neat –
 On Ley'l Shavuot you can stay up all night
 and study Torah till the morning light.
 For just one moment heaven opens wide
 and that's when a prayer can get inside.
 And the following day we read the Book of Ruth
 a story of love between age and youth –
 a mother with a daughter-in-law so loyal –
 the top of the line of David royal.
 Through famine and harvest the two made their way
 They say that King David was born on this day,

And Shavuot is also when he passed away.
 So to commemorate David the King
 On Shavuot his psalms we sing.
 And because it's a celebration of learning
 Many students their degrees are earning.
 We decorate with roses and greens
 to replicate ancient harvest scenes.
 We sprinkle the floor with flowers and spice
 to make the synagogue fragrant and nice.
 You can cut up paper to make a design
 and for your meals on dairy dine.
 There are seven attributes of the divine
 and seven times seven is forty nine
 So we count the omer for forty-nine days
 a time of meditation that leads to praise.
 There are seven attributes of the divine
 but as sides of ourselves
 They are yours and mine.
 At one end is virtue,
 the other is vice;
 One way is real cool and the other's not nice.
 You got chesed – that's love
 Gevurah –is power
 Tiferet is glory
 and Netzach is triumph.
 Y'got hod and yesod for beauty and romance
 And number seven Malchut is the king.
 One – Chesed
 Two – Gevurah
 Three – Tiferet
 Four – Netzach
 Hod and yesod for beauty and mmmhmmh
 And number seven Malchut is the king.
 But here is the thing.
 Chesed is love – but it can be lust;

continued on next page

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Gevurah – respect – turns to fear without trust
 Tiferet can stand for compassion and pride
 indulgence can be its other side.
 Netzach is winning cause you did it right
 But organize too much and you’re too uptight.
 With hod you may find your understanding of beauty
 take it too far and you’ve got vanity.
 And they say yesod’s about intimacy
 can be loyalty or promiscuity.
 And finally Malchut is majesty,
 but leadership can turn into obstinacy.
 Well each of the seven is given a week
 but if higher consciousness is what you seek

you will start with one and then combine
 with each of the others down the line.
 The first week you think about chesed they tell
 but then you consider the others as well.
 The first day think of the love within love
 the next day – gevurah – the power in love.
 the next day – tiferet – where love contains glory
 on to chesed and netzach – well you get the story.
 Each day is two attributes, that is the way
 You meditate through the forty-nine days.
 Then the moment that starts with liberation
 Culminates in the revelation.
 The Torah to all the Jewish people speaks
 And we celebrate the Feast of Weeks.

SOPHIE TUCKER EVENING A HIT!

Carol Fox Prescott, accomplished actor, director, teacher, and singer, came to the JCA on April 27 from New York with pianist Eddie Strauss, to give us a moving performance of her one-woman show, *Some of These Days, a tribute to the life and music of Sophie Tucker*. The quality of the show exceeded all expectations!

Yasher Koach and a hearty THANK YOU to Art Friedman who organized and produced the event, and his partner Tom Lavoie who singlehandedly prepared and presented all the wonderful baked goods. All the food and party materials were donated by Art and Tom. Art also handled publicity for the event. Their contribution is highly appreciated! As are the participation of our charming bartenders Erica and Abigail Loeb, Marina Goldman who took charge of reception and ticketing, and Paul Charette who set up the lighting and audio.

We are equally grateful to Rabbi Bauer for conceiving this fundraiser. Carol, who is the Rabbi’s cousin, is clearly a force in his life. “I would not be here at the JCA if it weren’t for Carol!” he said. Our Rabbi is truly committed to supporting fundraising at the JCA as an essential part of our functioning as a community.

Steve Woolf,
 for the JCA Fundraising Committee



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Karetnick's father

Ronnie Williams in honor of Karen Loeb



**THE JCA IS PLANNING A TRIP TO ISRAEL
IN MAY 2009.
SEE PAGE 24 FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

STOP & SHOP FOOD COLLECTION

CONGRATULATIONS!!! to those members of the JCA and others who helped with the food/money collection at the Stop & Shop On May 1, 2 and 4. **3,000 pounds of food were collected** and brought to the Amherst Survival Center for distribution to those in need. **\$414 was collected as well.** The food is particularly needed to help stock the Emergency Food Pantry for the summer season when collections and contributions slack off but demand does not. The Amherst Interfaith Service Council coordinates the Stop & Shop collections with a different Amherst area faith community participating each month.

Many thanks to volunteers **Shirley Vernick, Aaron and Patience Bousel, Fay Zipkowitz, Suzanne Severin, Felicia Mednick, Shira Yeskel-Mednick, Keily Swartz, Sara Schley, Sam, Joe and Maya Laur, Sophie Acker, Anita Page, Robin Diamond, Tom and Johanna Plaut, Sarina Ergas, Hill Boss, Sara Berger, John Clayton, Andra Rose, Judith Loischild, and Leah, Sarah and Arnie Alper.**

**UNITED JEWISH COMMUNITIES AND
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On behalf of United Jewish Communities and New Israel Fund, we'd like to thank the following people for their generous contributions:

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Jeffrey Tenenbaum

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Susan Weinstein & Peter Cinner

WORLD JEWISH CONCERNS AND ACTION COMMITTEE NEWS BRIEF

The World Jewish Concerns and Action Committee submits articles each month with the intention of presenting varying viewpoints on world Jewish affairs. The viewpoints expressed are not intended to represent the opinions of the Committee or of the membership of the JCA.

May 7, 2008, The New York Times
After 60 Years, Arabs in Israel Are Outsiders

By ETHAN BRONNER

JERUSALEM — As Israel toasts its 60th anniversary in the coming weeks, rejoicing in Jewish national rebirth and democratic values, the Arabs who make up 20 percent of its citizens will not be celebrating. Better off and better integrated than ever in their history, freer than a vast majority of other Arabs, Israel's 1.3 million Arab citizens are still far less well off than Israeli Jews and feel increasingly unwanted.

On Thursday, which is Independence Day, thousands will gather in their former villages to protest what they have come to call the "nakba," or catastrophe, meaning Israel's birth. For most Israelis, Jewish identity is central to the nation, the reason they are proud to live here, the link they feel with history. But Israeli Arabs, including the most successfully integrated ones, say a new identity must be found for the country's long-term survival.

"I am not a Jew," protested Eman Kassem-Sliman, an Arab radio journalist with impeccable Hebrew, whose children attend a predominantly Jewish school in Jerusalem. "How can I belong to a Jewish state? If they define this as a Jewish state, they deny that I am here."

The clash between the cherished heritage of the majority and the hopes of

the minority is more than friction. Even more today than in the huge half-century festivities a decade ago, the left and the right increasingly see Israeli Arabs as one of the central challenges for Israel's future — one intractably bound to the search for an overall settlement between Jews and Arabs. Jews fear ultimately losing the demographic battle to Arabs, both in Israel and in the larger territory it controls.

Most say that while an end to its Jewish identity means an end to Israel, equally, failure to instill in Arab citizens a sense of belonging is dangerous as Arabs promote the idea that, 60 years or no 60 years, Israel is a passing phenomenon.

"I want to convince the Jewish people that having a Jewish state is bad for them," said Abir Kopty, an advocate for Israeli Arabs.

Land is an especially sore point. Across Israel, especially in the north, are the remains of dozens of partly unused Palestinian villages, scars on the landscape from the conflict that gave birth to the country in 1948.

Yet some original inhabitants and their descendants, all Israeli Arab citizens, live in packed towns and villages, often next to the old villages, and are barred from resettling them while Jewish communities around them are urged to expand.

One recent warm afternoon, Jamal Abdulhadi Mahameed drove past kibbutz fields of wheat and watermelon, up a dirt road surrounded by pine trees and cactuses, and climbed the worn remains of a set of stairs, declaring in the open air: "This was my house. This is where I was born."

He said what he most wanted now,

at 69, was to leave the crowded town next door, come to this piece of uncultivated land with the pomegranate bushes planted by his father and work it, as generations had before him. He has gone to court to get it.

He is no revolutionary and, by nearly any measure, is a solid and successful citizen. His children include a doctor, two lawyers and an engineer. Yet, as an Arab, his quest for a return to his land challenges a longstanding Israeli policy.

"We are prohibited from using our own land," he said, standing in the former village of Lajoun, now a mix of overgrown scrub and pines surrounded by the fields of Kibbutz Megiddo. "They want to keep it available for Jews. My daughter makes no distinction between Jewish and Arab patients. Why should the state treat me differently?"

The answer has to do with the very essence of Zionism — the movement of Jewish rebirth and control over the land where Jewish statehood first flourished more than 2,000 years ago.

Maintaining a Haven

"Land is presence," remarked Clinton Bailey, an Israeli scholar who has focused on Bedouin culture. "If you want to be present here, you have to have land. The country is not that big. What you cede to Arabs can no longer be used for Jews who may still want to come."

A Palestinian state is widely seen as a potential solution to tensions with the Palestinians of Gaza and the West Bank, but any deep conflict with Israel's own Arab citizens could prove much more complex.

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Antagonism runs both ways. Many Israeli Arabs express solidarity with their Palestinian brethren under occupation, while others praise Hezbollah, the anti-Israel group in Lebanon, and some Arabs in Parliament routinely accuse Israel of Nazism.

Meanwhile, several right-wing rabbis have forbidden Jews from renting apartments to Arabs or employing them. And a majority of Jews, polls show, favor a transfer of Arabs out of Israel as part of a two-state solution, a view that a decade ago was thought extreme.

Arabs here reject that idea partly because they prefer the certainty of an imperfect Israeli democracy to whatever system may evolve in a shaky Palestinian state. That is part of the paradox of the Israeli Arabs. Their anger has grown, but so has their sense of belonging.

In fact, the anxious and recriminating talk on both sides may give a false impression of constant tension. There is a real level of Jewish-Arab coexistence in many places, and the government has recently committed itself to affirmative action for Arabs in education, infrastructure and government employment.

“We know that they need more land, that their children need a place to live,” said Raanan Dinur, director general of the prime minister’s office. “We are working on building a new Arab city in the north. Our main goal is to take what are today two economies and integrate them into one economy.”

Still, there is a concern that time is short.

Mr. Mahameed and his fellow villagers will arrive at the Supreme Court

in July with the goal of obtaining 50 acres of their families’ former land that sits uncultivated except for pine trees planted by the Jewish National Fund.

Their story is part of a larger one: After the United Nations General Assembly voted in late 1947 for two states in Palestine, one Arab and one Jewish, local Arab militias and their regional supporters went on the offensive against Jewish settlements, in anger over the United Nations’ support for a Jewish state. Zionist forces counterattacked. Hundreds of Palestinian villages, including Lajoun, were evacuated and mostly destroyed.

Palestinian Arabs became refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Gaza, then under Egypt’s supervision. But some, like Mr. Mahameed, stayed in Israel. They were made citizens and were promised equality, but never got it.

Those who had left or had been expelled from their villages were not permitted back and have spent the past 60 years often a few miles away, watching their land farmed or built upon by newcomers, many of them refugees from Nazi oppression or Soviet anti-Semitism.

In 1953, the Israeli Parliament retroactively declared 300,000 acres of captured village land to be government property for settlement or security purposes.

Mr. Mahameed and his 200 fellow complainants live in the crowded town of Um el-Fahm near their former land.

“Our claim is that since the land has not been used all these years, there was no need to confiscate it,” said Suhad Bishara, a lawyer with Adalah, a Haifa-based group devoted to Israeli Arab rights.

She lost that argument in the district court, which agreed with the government that the pine trees and a water treatment plant in Lajoun constituted settlement. For her, the ruling is part of a long tradition of trickery by Israel’s legal and political systems that have nearly always come down against expanding Arab land use.

Ms. Bishara says Arabs occupy only a tiny percentage of Israel, despite making up one-fifth of its population. The government said it could not provide an estimate of the land use.

Still, it is not hard to detail the gap between Arabs and Jews in nearly every area — health, education, employment — and in government spending. Three times as many Arab families are below the poverty line as Jewish ones, and a government study five years ago called for removing “the stain of discrimination.”

Mr. Dinur of the prime minister’s office has taken an interest in the issue and has met several times with Arab leaders. He says it may be possible one day for some Arabs to return to their native villages, but only as part of a process of integration and regional reconciliation. Otherwise, he says, Israeli Jews will fear that the Arabs’ goal will be to take back all the territory lost in the 1948 war.

Regional Tensions

For many Israelis, the challenge posed by the Arabs cannot be separated from what they see as the risks in the region — the increased influence of Iran, the growth of Islamic radicalism, the concern that another war in Lebanon or Gaza is not far away.

Michael Oren, a senior fellow at the Shalem Institute, a research group in Jerusalem, said that when the army

continued on next page

Online at www.j-c-a.org

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prepares for war, it includes in the plan how to handle the possibility of Israeli Arabs rising up against the state.

Many also believe — and here Jews and Arabs seem to agree — that without a solution to the Palestinian dispute over the West Bank and Gaza, internal tensions will not abate. And given the pessimism about the peace talks with the Palestinians, the forecast does not look bright.

For many Israeli Jews who long resisted the idea of a Palestinian state, it

was the realization that they were losing the demographic battle to Palestinians that turned them around. But of course the population challenge also comes from Israel's Arabs.

Israeli Arabs are aware of the contest. And some figure time is on their side.

"Israel is living within the Arab-Islamic circle," Raed Salah, head of the Islamic Movement of Israel, said in an interview. "It is important to look at the Jewish percentage in that larger context over the long term."

Abdulwahab Darawshe, a former member of Israel's Parliament and the current head of the Arab Democratic Party, sat in his Nazareth office recently and said: "No matter what happens, we will not leave here again. That was a big mistake in 1948. Yet our identity is becoming more and more Palestinian. You cannot cut us from the Arab tree."

Asked his plans for Israel's Independence Day, he said, "I will take a shovel and work the land around my olive trees."

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When: August 10-15
Where: Camp JRF in South Sterling, PA.

Post-B'nai Mitzvah teens and their parents are invited to share a week working together to make a difference. Space is limited! Enrollment is currently open for 20-30 adult and teen pairs, post-B'nai Mitzvah ages 13+ (teams may include one or two parents).

More information and registration form at: <http://www.jrf.org/tikkun-JRF>

You will live for a week in active, participatory community, connecting to local communities and providing much needed support and building work.

To learn more, contact Eve Maslin at (215) 885-5601 or e-mail emaslin@jrf.org. For project information, contact Clifford Goldsmith at (617) 965-7323 or e-mail clifgold@hotmail.com

JCA MEMORIAL TABLET REQUEST FORM

1. Tablets may be installed in memory of a JCA member or in memory of a relative or a friend of a member.
2. Tablets are of solid brass, 8 7/8 x 2 1/2 inches.
3. Tablets will include the name of the deceased in English, the name of the deceased and his or her parents in Hebrew, the date of death in English, and the date of death on the Jewish calendar in Hebrew. (Some information may be omitted if not known or desired, but no additional information may be included. We will assist in getting Hebrew names and dates if necessary.)
4. Annual reminders of the Yahrzeit will be mailed out by the JCA office if desired.
5. A minimum donation of \$100 per tablet has been set by the Board.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY:

Name of donor: _____ Tel. Day: _____

Address: _____ Evening: _____

Do you want an annual reminder of the Yahrzeit? Yes _____ No _____

Name and address of reminder if different from above: _____

NAME OF DECEASED in English: _____

in Hebrew (or transliterated): _____

DATE OF DEATH: _____

(English)

(Jewish Calendar, if known)

TIME OF DEATH (before or after sundown): _____

PARENTS' FIRST NAMES (in Hebrew if known; otherwise in English)

FATHER: _____ MOTHER: _____

Return this form with your check to the JCA office. Mail should be sent to:

JCA YAHRZEIT
742 Main Street
Amherst, MA 01002

Call the JCA office (256-0160) or Saul Gladstone (253-0631) if you have questions.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

Business Card 3.125 x 1.7857
 (Standard business card, reduced ~ 10%)

	1 issue	4 issues	11 issues
Non-Member	\$ 35.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 270.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 30.00	\$ 24.55
JCA Member	\$ 28.00	\$ 96.00	\$ 216.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 24.00	\$ 19.64

¼ Sheet
 3.125 x 3.875 3 1/16 x 3 7/8

	1 issue	4 issues	11 issues
Non-Member	\$ 60.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 462.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 50.00	\$ 42.00
JCA Member	\$ 48.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 370.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 40.00	\$ 33.64

½ Sheet
 6.25 x 3.875 6 1/4 x 3 7/8

	1 issue	4 issues	11 issues
Non-Member	\$ 110.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 847.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 93.75	\$ 77.00
JCA Member	\$ 88.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 600.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 75.00	\$ 61.82

Full Sheet
 6.25 x 7.75 6 1/4 x 7 3/4

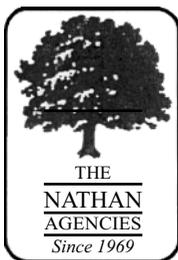
	1 issue	4 issues	11 issues
Non-Member	\$ 200.00	\$ 670.00	\$ 1540.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 167.50	\$ 140.00
JCA Member	\$ 160.00	\$ 536.00	\$ 1232.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 134.00	\$ 112.00

*Advertise in the
 JCA Newsletter*

Contact Aaron Bousel
 253-3544, news@j-c-a.org

By advertising you can:

- Help support the cost of producing the newsletter
- Let the community know about your products and/or services.
- Increase your business!



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Mutual Funds • Investments
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 Capital Analysts Incorporated: Member FINRA, SIPC

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 Amherst
 Corner Route 9 & Gatehouse Rd

Visit Our Website at
www.nathanagencies.com

413-256-8351

Community Announcements

National Yiddish Book Center

The National Yiddish Book Center will present The Afro Semitic Experience on Sunday, June 1, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Reservations suggested.

The Afro-Semitic Experience is a band of African-American and Jewish-American musicians who are dedicated to preserving, promoting and expanding the rich cultural and musical heritage of the Jewish and African Diasporas. African-American jazz pianist Warren Byrd, and Jewish-American jazz bassist David Chevan present a unique musical program weaving together stories and music from the Jewish and African-American sacred traditions, including interpretations of Gospel,

Klezmer, Ni-gunim, Spirituals, Bebop and Swing. Additional band members include Alvin Carter, Jr.-drums; Baba David Coleman-percussion; Stacy Phillips-violin and dobro; Will Bartlett-saxophone and clarinet; and Mixashawn.com-tenor saxophone.



Meditation Group

Thursday Morning “Lecha Dumiyah Tehillah”* Meditation Group

Every Thursday in the CBI Library, from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

Led by Rabbis Nancy Flam and Sheila Peltz Weinberg

Please know that is not an instructional group. Rather, each of us comes with our own silent meditation or prayer practice and draws strength and affirmation for our deep,

inner work by being together in community.

- Arrive & Settling In: 8:00 – 8:15 a.m.
- Setting of Kavanah/Teaching: 8:15 – 8:25 a.m.
- Bell to begin silent meditation: 8:25 a.m.
- Bell to end silent meditation: 8:55 a.m.

* “To You silence is praise.” Psalm 65:2



Share Carpooling To JCC Day Camp In Longmeadow, MA This Summer

Would you be interested in sharing carpool driving? Please email Rachel Schwab Rehorka, rasr86@mac.com, or call: 413-259-1295 evenings, if you are sending your child to JCC Day Camp this summer Session “C”, July 21 - August 1, 2008, and you would like to carpool.



A LITERARY AND ARTS TRIP TO ISRAEL - MAY 17TH - 28TH, 2009

The JCA is planning a very exciting trip to Israel that will focus on the arts, literary and religious innovations of the Jewish State. Participants will engage directly with the artists, writers, and religious innovators that give contemporary Israel its unique vibrancy. Our daily activities will include:

- encounters with authors to discuss their stories, essays, and articles;
- visits to studios and art galleries, talking with artists about their creative process and their life in Israel;
- studying Jewish texts in the new, egalitarian batei midrash (houses of study) that have sprung up in recent years; and
- trips to the Bezalel Art School, stunning historic sites around Israel, the Museum of Islamic Culture,

music and theatrical performances, exploring the unparalleled religious and cultural splendor of the country.

We will combine our immersion in Israel’s art and culture with explorations of the geopolitics of Israel as well as daily life in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. There will be plenty of free time to explore on your own. The tentative itinerary is online at www.j-c-a.org and the budget will be on the site within two weeks. This trip is open to any interested person in and outside of our congregation. All individuals residing in Western Massachusetts are eligible for a Harold Grinspoon Foundation grant of up to \$1000 for Israel travel. Go to www.hgf.org to download an application.

If you are at all interested in the May 2009 trip, please contact Karen Loeb at (413) 253-0336 or email at kloeb@comcast.net.

DONATIONS

Adult Education Fund

In Memory of Josef Weizenbaum, father of Sharon Weizenbaum and grandfather of Zoe (Aaron & Patience Bousel)

JCA General Fund

Mazel Tov to Madeleine Charney & Rudy Perkins (Sara Schley & Joseph Laur)

In Memory of my husband, Harvey Leonard Friedman (Alice Friedman)

In Memory of Robert Burkart, father of Michael Burkart, father-in-law of Barbara Burkart (Kitty Axelson-Berry)

Lilia Levine B'nai Tzedek Fund

Peter Gladstone B'nai Tzedek Fund

Austin Cohen B'nai Tzedek Fund

With Thanks for a great spiritual home (Sean Leber-Fennessy)

Rabbi David Dunn Bauer

In Honor of the birth of our granddaughter, Johanna Alexis Sklar (Patty & Fred Levine)

Prayerbook Fund

In Memory of Suzanne Heller, mother of Jenny Heller, mother-in-law of David Hammond and grandmother of Daniel and Zachary (Aaron & Patience Bousel)

In Memory of Judy Hale, mother of Jordene Hale, mother-in-law of David Rabinovitz, and grandmother of Sophie and Chana Rose Rabinovitz (Aaron & Patience Bousel)

In Memory of Robert Burkart, father of Michael Burkart, father-in-law of Barbara, and grandfather of Karen and Isaac (Aaron & Patience Bousel)

CONDOLENCES

We offer our sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those who have recently died:

Sydelle Horowitz, wife of Martin Horowitz, mother of Michelle, grandmother of Brielle and mother-in-law of Ruth

Robert Burkart, father of Michael Burkart, father-in-law of Barbara, and grandfather of Karen and Isaac

Leonard Hofrichter, husband of Gertrude, father of Neil and Richard and grandfather of Jesse

Jason Lucas, step-father of Craig Kannel, father-in-law of Janet Kannel and grandfather of Charlie, Ethan and Jared Kannel

Judy Hale, mother of Jordene Hale, mother-in-law of David Rabinovitz, and grandmother of Sophie and Chana Rose Rabinovitz

**MEMORIAL SERVICE TO CELEBRATE
THE LIFE OF SYDNEY MYERS**

Sunday, June 8th at 11:30 at the JCA

There will be a lunch in the social hall following the service

*RSVP: Adam Myers
adammyers33@aol.com*



The Deadline for the August Newsletter is
July 13th

All submissions MUST be made either by e-mail or e-mail with a file attached. If you do not have access to a computer or email, please contact the editor.

PLEASE RESPECT THE DEADLINE!

Thank you,
Aaron Bousel,
news@j-c-a.org 253-3544

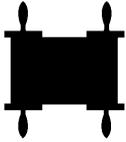
If someone in your family, or someone you know in the community, is ill and/or in the hospital, please contact Rabbi Bauer or the Chesed Committee by calling the office (256-0160). Even if visits or phone calls are not desired, it is important for us as a community to be aware of the health and well being of our members and their families. We cannot help if we don't know.



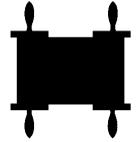
Jewish Community of Amherst
June 2008
 27 Iyar ~ 27 Sivan



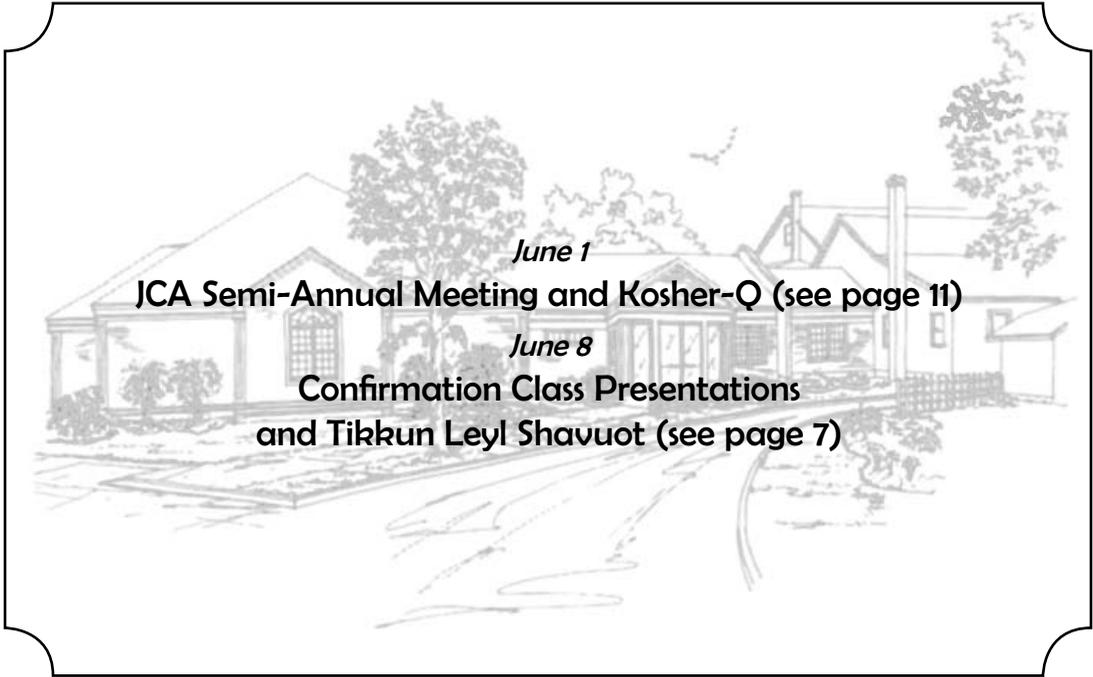
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 27 IYAR 3:00 pm JCA Semi-Annual Meeting 5:00 pm Kosher Q (see page 11)	2 28 IYAR ✠Yom Yerushalayim 7:30 pm Chesed Committee	3 29 IYAR 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	4 1 SIVAN ✠Rosh Chodesh Sivan 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 12 Noon Text Study 6:00 pm Confirmation Class with Rabbi Bauer; Rehearsal for Sunday Service 7:30 pm Book Group	5 2 SIVAN 7:30 pm Board Meeting	6 3 SIVAN 8:06 5:30 pm Intergenerational Family Service and potluck supper at Groff Park (weather permitting)	7 4 SIVAN ✠Naso 10:00 am Reconstructionist Service Bat Mitzvah: Addison Rose Gamliel 10:00 am Masorti Service
8 5 SIVAN 8:07 6:00-11:30 pm Confirmation Class Presentations and Tikken Leyl Shavuot	9 6 SIVAN ✠Shavuot 10:00 am Shavuot Services (Yiskor) 8:00 pm Finance Committee	10 7 SIVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	11 8 SIVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 7:30 pm Religion Committee	12 9 SIVAN	13 10 SIVAN 8:10 6:15 pm Service	14 11 SIVAN ✠Beha'lotecha 10:00 am Service Bat Mitzvah: Leah Alper
15 12 SIVAN	16 13 SIVAN	17 14 SIVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	18 15 SIVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 12 Noon Text Study	19 16 SIVAN	20 17 SIVAN 8:12 6:15 pm Carlebach style service followed by potluck supper	21 18 SIVAN ✠Shelach 10:00 am Service Torah Study with Devorah Jacobson following kiddush
22 19 SIVAN	23 20 SIVAN	24 21 SIVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 6:30 pm Social Committee	25 22 SIVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 5:00 pm Fundraising Committee	26 23 SIVAN	27 24 SIVAN 8:13 6:15 pm Service	28 25 SIVAN ✠Korach 10:00 am Service Bar Mitzvah: Jacob Black
29 26 SIVAN	30 27 SIVAN Camp Shemesh 1st Session begins					



Jewish Community of Amherst
July 2008
 28 Sivan ~ 28 Tammuz



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 28 SIVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	2 29 SIVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 7:00 pm Religion Committee	3 30 SIVAN XXRosh Chodesh Tammuz - Day 1	4 1 TAMMUZ XXRosh Chodesh Tammuz - Day 2 Independence Day 11:00 am Office Closed 5:30 pm Intergenerational Family Service and potluck supper at Groff Park (weather permitting)	5 2 TAMMUZ Chukat 10:00 am Reconstructionist Service Bat Mitzvah: Rachel Madowitz 10:00 am Masorti Service
6 3 TAMMUZ	7 4 TAMMUZ	8 5 TAMMUZ 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	9 6 TAMMUZ 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation	10 7 TAMMUZ	11 8 TAMMUZ 11:00 am 6:15 pm Service	12 9 TAMMUZ Balak 10:00 am Service Bar Mitzvah: Aidan Bohan
13 10 TAMMUZ Newsletter Deadline	14 11 TAMMUZ Camp Shemesh 2nd Session begins	15 12 TAMMUZ 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	16 13 TAMMUZ 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation	17 14 TAMMUZ	18 15 TAMMUZ 11:00 am 6:15 pm Carlebach style Service followed by potluck supper	19 16 TAMMUZ Pinchas 10:00 am Service
20 17 TAMMUZ XXSeventeenth of Tammuz	21 18 TAMMUZ	22 19 TAMMUZ 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	23 20 TAMMUZ 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 5:00 pm Fundraising Committee	24 21 TAMMUZ	25 22 TAMMUZ 11:00 am 6:15 pm Service	26 23 TAMMUZ Matot 10:00 am Service Torah Study with Merle Feld following kiddush
27 24 TAMMUZ	28 25 TAMMUZ Camp Shemesh 3rd Session begins	29 26 TAMMUZ 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	30 27 TAMMUZ 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation	31 28 TAMMUZ		



June 1

JCA Semi-Annual Meeting and Kosher-Q (see page 11)

June 8

**Confirmation Class Presentations
and Tikkun Leyl Shavuot (see page 7)**

*Jewish Community of Amherst
742 Main Street
Amherst, MA 01002*

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